

## New Passport Requirements

Monday, 01 June 2009

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On June 1, 2009, new passport requirements took effect for American citizens returning to the United States from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean or Bermuda. Returning U.S. citizens are now required to present a valid passport, passport card, or other travel document approved by the Department of Homeland Security.

Before these new rules began, U.S. citizens only needed to show proof of identity and U.S. citizenship.

Please note that requirements for air, land and sea travel differ slightly.

Those returning to the United States by air are required to present a valid passport.

However, those returning by land or sea have the option of also presenting a U.S. Passport Card, Enhanced Drivers License (EDL), or Trusted Travelers Program card.

There are also a number of different groups (children, military, cruise participants, etc.) who are able to present specialized identification information in place of a passport.

For a complete explanation of regulations

[click here](#)

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As a result of these new requirements, it may take slightly longer for new passport applications to be processed.

For more information on these new passport requirements and how to apply for a passport, visit the official

[Department of State travel site](#)

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